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25 FEB 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Comptroller

SUBJECT

Catalog of Available Financial Data

RIMELLANCE

Memorandum for Chief, Technical Accounting Staif; Chief, Budget Division; Chief,

Finance Division, from Deputy Comptroller, dated 18 December 1962, Subject: Task

Group to Survey Financial Practices

1. Reference requested that the Technical Accounting Staff take action on the following recommendation made in a recent report by the Comptroller's Financial Advisory Committee:

"The Comptroller prepare a document describing the kinds of financial data currently available. Such a document could be used to offset the common complaint that the offices are not aware of the kinds of data available and, therefore, establish their own system to obtain data that may be readily available from a source within the Office of the Comptroller."

- 2. Based upon our preliminary review of the problem area, we have serious reservations about the usefulness of the recommended document. In view of the knowledge already possessed by Budget and Fiscal Office personnel of the general types of information available, it appears that the recommended document would have to be in great detail to enable personnel using the document to ascertain whether specific data were available. On this basis, however, the document would be so voluminous as to discourage its use—the person with an interest in additional financial data would find it more convenient to ask the Comptroller's Office than to research the document. Further, for consideration in the light of the foregoing reservation as to usefulness, is the very significant time which would be required to compile the extensive catalog of data contemplated by the recommendation.
- 3. It is suggested that in lieu of preparing a document as recommended, that this Office do the following:

- Based upon the results of the Budget and Fiscal Office surveys now in process, investigate any instances where it is found that an office is maintaining financial records other than those prescribed by the Office of the Comptroller to see whether or not such information is available in the records of the Office of the Comptroller.
- Release a memorandum (see attached) to the Budget and b. Fiscal Officers to require that they consult with this Office whomever they identify a need for additional records of financial data so that this Office can determine whether the needed information is available and, if not, whether procedures should be established by the Comptroller to make it available.

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Chief, Technical Accounting Staff.

Attachment

APPROVED:

Deputy Comptroller

Date

DISTRIBUTION:

Orig. & 1 - Addressee

2 - Chief, Finance 1 - Chief, Budget

1 - Chairman of Financial Advisory Committee

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jsh (20 February 1963)

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